

Minutes of The Devonshire Hill Nursery and Primary School Full GB Meeting

Date: Friday 19 June 2020
Time: 1pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting

Present: Julie D'Abreu (Headteacher)
*Steven Lock (Chair of Governors)
Giuseppe Sollazzo
Steven Feldman
*Michael Cutting
Penny Woolley
Sarah Male
Shaheen Ferdous

Also Present Gary Wong (SBM)
Corinne David (Clerk)
*denotes absent

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 The Chair to welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Steven Lock.
- 1.3 The Clerk confirm the meeting was quorate with 7 Governors.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHERWISE IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interests made in respect of any of the agenda items.

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 The minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting held on 5 June 2020 and 12 June 2020 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record. One set of minutes were electronically signed by the Chair and emailed to the School for file.

3.2 Matters arising

- 3.2.1 Item 3.13 weekly Covid-19 transition and infection rate for Haringey.
The Headteacher had sent the Clerk the information to circulate to the GB.

ACTION Clerk to circulate the Covid -19 transition and infection rate to the GB.

4. REVIEW AND FEEDBACK OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT AND SCHOOL REOPENING

- 4.1 The Headteacher and Gary Wong provided a verbal update of the wider reopening to pupils and the implementation of the Risk Assessment (RA). The highlights were:
 - a) The wider reopening went smoothly and in accordance with the RA
 - b) On average 40 children were in every day.
 - c) Parents were good at following the visual aids and social distancing.
 - d) Another bubble will be starting on Monday.
 - e) 80 children had indicated that they would be returning.

- 4.2 **What Worked Well.** The Headteacher noted that it had been great to see children back at school. Many of the families that are back don't have much English, so staff are using a variety of techniques to communicate to ensure social distancing is observed.
- 4.2.1 Feedback from teachers indicated that they were settling the children back into school, getting a feel of what the children's needs were with child led learning. A lot of practical work like art was being undertaken.
- 4.2.2 The sports company came to the School on Wednesday and commented on how well the school was organised and noted the effectiveness of the one-way system. There were no unwell staff members or children.
- 4.2.3 On the whole families seem to be happy with Google Classrooms and the virtual learning.
- 4.2.4 Noted that there were two children who informed the school of mild symptoms of Covid 19 (slightly high temperatures and mild coughs). The families were told not to bring their children in for two weeks. The two children had not yet started back at school.
- 4.3 **Even Better If.** The catering company had let the School down on Monday. The company had been informed that children were coming in and of their needs. There were no catering personnel in until 11:15am. The Headteacher had submitted a complaint and was taking advice. On Tuesday a solution had been reached. Noted that no hot meal is being supplied, just a pack lunch.
- 4.3.1 A family had complained that their older child (Year 6) was going into a bubble with a younger sibling. The School had a long conversation with the family and explained the rationale for the bubble system. The family decided to send their older child in (Year 6) and not the younger child in; this allowed the older child to be in an age appropriate bubble.
- 4.3.2 There have been parents who have stressed that they would rather have their children in year group appropriate bubbles and not in sibling bubbles.
- 4.3.3 There are only a total of six Year 6 pupils in school; three in Year 6 and three in other sibling bubbles: out of a total of 60 children. The School has called all the Year 6 and have a data basis for the reasons why families are not sending their children in. Main reasons were: shielding vulnerable adults and satisfaction with the home learning package.
- 4.3.4 **Q: Those parents that have a concern sending a Year 6 child back, is there a case for reconsidering the approach used for the bubbles?**
- A: As an SLT we have been discussing this and feel at the moment this is the right approach to take. Another reason was that they are happy with google classroom and the education they are getting through the home learning. As a School we don't want to keep trying to persuade them to come in. We want to move on to a wider opening; targeting Year 5 and then Year 2 next. The School is continuing to review the bubbles and associated logistics.
- 4.4 The School won't calling any more Year 6 asking the to come back. The School will be moving on to Year 5 and Year 2.

4.5 **Q: How many more bubbles can be accommodated?**

A: The School has another new bubble starting on Monday. Currently none of the Year 5 classrooms are being used. There is space and capacity, the school has a large foot print and is spread out. There can be identified areas in the playgrounds for different bubbles. With more bubbles, there will be more staggering and social distancing. From Monday there will be 7 full bubbles and 1 with two children.

4.6 **Q: How many vulnerable children are coming back?**

A: There are two children with EHCP coming back. General feedback from parents is that there are happy with the home learning. For the DHNPS vulnerable children the School is trying to get them back into school, and where appropriate escalating cases to Social Services and keeping them informed of the situation.

The Governing Body provided thanks to Rachel Bates and her team for the work undertaken with all the vulnerable families.

4.7 The RA has been sent to the teachers' unions and Unison. Noted that the response from Unison was considered, practical and helpful. No response had been received from the NEU.

ACTION School to circulate the RA to Governors for review.

4.8 DHNPS will not be opening over the summer holidays as there is a maintenance programme to have all the emergency lighting updated; this is being funded by the LA.

4.9 Shaheen Ferdaus provided an overview of the changes to the admission coding system and impact on the school's attendance. Noted that if families in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 choose not to send their child in, then they will not be penalised.

4.10 **Q: Are children slipping behind academically?**

A: The School won't know the answer to this until the children are back in properly. For those children that are back it is too early to make a judgement. A lot will depend on their experience of lock down. Some children had not been out of their house for the whole of lock down. Once the School has all the information and it will be in the best position to set out plans for curriculum recovery. Generally, the School is following the guidance and doing lots of things. For those children with EAL, there may need to be further adjustments with an immersion in English. There will be an emotional impact on the children.

At 1:30pm Giuseppe Sollazzo left the meeting.

4.11 Governors noted that the School was on the right path, the RA was working well and children were embracing the home learning; which would place the school in good stead should there be a second lock down in the autumn term. All staff and the SLT were thanked and Governors acknowledged and appreciated all the work that they had done and how the School was at the heart of the community.

5. **AOB/ DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Catch up meeting on: Friday 26 June at 1pm.
Next Full GB meeting on 24 June 2020 at 6pm

5.1 Agenda items for the next Full GB meeting:

- Formal agreement of the budget.
- Staffing matters including staffing restructure.

The meeting finished at 1:40pm. Steven Feldman thanked all Governors for attending the virtual meeting

Signed: Date:
Steven Feldman, Vice- Chair of Governors